

What is Claimed is:

1. A receiving control device comprising:
keyword input means of inputting a keyword,
retrieval means of obtaining program information of a
program relating to said input keyword,
user channel matching means of matching said obtained
program information with a predetermined user channel
number,
direction input means of receiving directions from a
user, and
control means of controlling a video receiver,
wherein

when a direction is received from said direction
input means, said control means obtains the broadcast
channel number of a program being broadcast at present on
said predetermined user channel number and informs said
video receiver of said broadcast channel number.

2. A receiving control device comprising:
keyword input means of inputting a keyword,
retrieval means of obtaining program information of a
program relating to said input keyword,
user channel matching means of matching said keyword
with a predetermined user channel number,
direction input means of receiving directions from a
user, and

control means of controlling a video receiver,
wherein

when a direction is received from said direction
input means, said retrieval means obtains program
information of a program relating to said keyword matched
with said predetermined user channel number, and

said control means obtains the broadcast channel
number of a program being broadcast at present from said
obtained program information and informs said video
receiver of said broadcast channel number.

3. A receiving control device in accordance with
claim 1 or 2, wherein said obtained program information
includes at least broadcast channel number, broadcast start
time and broadcast end time.

4. A receiving control device in accordance with any
one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said retrieval means
retrieves program information to obtain a program relating
to said keyword.

5. A receiving control device in accordance with any
one of claims 1 to 3, wherein

said retrieval means transmits said keyword input via
a network to a program information server connected to said
network,

said program information server stores program
information, and retrieves program information of a program

relating to said keyword from said stored program information by using said transmitted keyword, and

said retrieval means obtains said program information retrieved by said program information server.

6. A receiving control device in accordance with claim 5, further comprising video recording medium control means of operating a recording medium for recording video information, wherein

when programs matched with said predetermined user channel number are broadcast on plural broadcast channels, said video recording medium control means records programs other than at least either one of the programs on said video recording medium, and

when a direction is received from said direction input means in a time period during which there is no program matched with said predetermined user channel number, said video recording medium control means reproduces said programs recorded on said video recording media.

7. A receiving control device in accordance with claim 5 or 6, wherein said keyword input means inputs said keywords from a keyword server connected to said network and used to transmit said keywords.

8. A receiving control device in accordance with claim 7, wherein

inputting said keywords means that plural keywords

are obtained from said keyword server, and

said keywords to be input are those selected from among said plural keywords.

9. A receiving control device in accordance with any one of claims 5 to 8, further comprising program information change monitoring means for carrying out monitoring as to whether program information stored in said program information server is renewed or not, wherein

when said program information change monitoring means detects that the program information stored in said program information server is renewed after the time when said retrieval means last obtained program information of a program relating to said keyword,

said retrieval means renews said obtained program information on the basis of the result of said detection.

10. A receiving control device in accordance with claim 9, wherein said detection is carried out by making inquiries to said program information server at predetermined time intervals as to the renewal time of said program information stored in said program information server.

11. A receiving control device in accordance with any one of claims 5 to 10, further comprising an area information holding means of holding area information for specifying an area wherein said receiving control device

itself is installed, wherein

when transmitting said input keywords to said program information server, said retrieval means also transmits said area information to said program information server, and

said program information server carries out retrieval in consideration of said transmitted area information.

12. A receiving control device in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 11, further comprising a program information display means of displaying program information, wherein

said program information display means displays said program information in a table format including at least said keywords or said remote controller channel numbers corresponding to said keywords, time information, program titles,

one of the ordinate and the abscissa of said format represents said keywords or said remote controller channel numbers corresponding to said keywords, and the other represents time information.

13. A receiving control device in accordance with claim 7 or 8, wherein said program information server has the function of said keyword server.

14. A medium having programs and/or data for activating all or part of functions of all or part of means

of said receiving control device in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 13 on a computer, wherein said medium can be processed by a computer.

15. An information aggregate characterized by programs and/or data for activating all or part of functions of all or part of means of said receiving control device in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 13 on a computer.